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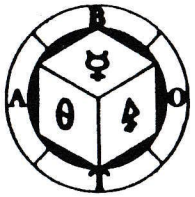
TAROT FUNDAMENTALS

Lesson No. 1



BUILDERS OF THE ADYTUM

TAROT FUNDAMENTALS

Lesson One

THE OBJECTIVES OF TAROT PRACTICE

You have undoubtedly thought a great deal about your reasons for taking up B. O. T. A. work. You probably seek to fulfil your desire for spiritual advancement, mental development

B. O. T. A. seeks to acquaint you with certain methods by which you may utilize spiritual powers. It does so with the understanding that you will use these powers not only for your own good but also for the good of mankind. Indeed, this is the only way in which spiritual powers can be safely used because they destroy those who have the temerity and lack of understanding to employ them for base and selfish ends.

In order to promote the welfare of humanity, we need first to look to the units of which humanity is composed. Selfish personalities make their unhappy contribution to a selfish social structure. Chaotic thinking and immature emotions affect the mental and emotional levels of all humanity. We do not live unto ourselves alone. To the degree that you become a more effective unit in your personal environment, to that degree are you bringing spiritual powers into action for all humanity and preparing yourself to serve Life in ever greater measure.

Dedicate yourself, therefore, to work with the Tarot techniques in order to transmute your personality. A transformed personality will bring with it the ability to change your environment closer to the heart's desire. Emotional and mental immaturities build patterns of frustration in the every day life experiences. A fulfilled life becomes a positive radiating center, an effective channel through which the Higher Self can function and a living example for others.

Consider the chain of circumstances which led to your reading these words. Was there not one primary motive—your desire for inner enlightenment? Even though you may have approached this study with a measure of skepticism wondering how the claims made as to the effectiveness of Tarot could be substantiated, your interest is evidence of your basic spiritual urge to seek light.

This light-seeking impulse is the first requisite for success with Tarot. This, and a strong determination to persist in the step-by-step mastery of the details of the work explained in this course, will enable you to make the most of your study.

The very fact that you are reading this lesson is proof that you are ready for advanced thinking. Nothing ever occurs by accident. Ageless Wisdom teaches that when a pupil is ready, his instruction will be forthcoming.

This course on TAROT FUNDAMENTALS will show you how to use the Tarot Keys more effectively for the purpose of evoking thought. Thus you will bring to the surface of your consciousness, where you can recognize and understand them, those great principles of practical occultism which lie hidden in the hearts of all mankind.

All these principles are based on a single truth. Knowledge of this truth is innate in every human being, but not until it has been brought into the light of consciousness is it available for use. Over the portals of ancient temples, therefore, was the motto, "KNOW THYSELF."

For the same reason it is written: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God", and, "The kingdom of God is within you." Therefore know thyself and all else that you require will be added unto you.

Rich symbolism and ingenious construction make Tarot one of the best instruments for true occult **education,** that is, for **drawing** out the wisdom hidden within you.

The Tarot Keys do not put something into your consciousness. They call forth what is already there.

The practical instruction of this course will aid you to develop a more profound grasp of the meanings of these Keys. Into your hands will be put clues which will enable you to use Tarot in order to gain a deep working understanding of the laws of life. Follow these clues and Tarot will bring out the knowledge which is within you. . . a knowledge more important to you than anything else.

To each prospector in this inexhaustible mine of Ageless Wisdom, persevering study will reveal what might never be found by another seeker. No matter how high may be his source of information, no interpreter may say truthfully: "This is the full, final meaning of Tarot."

There can be no final explanation. No student will ever exhaust the possibilities of this extraordinary symbolic alphabet, any more than one person can exhaust the possibilities of a language.

There is, however, a definite manner in which to approach the study of these Keys, even as there are tunnels which lead to the heart of a mine. In the Introduction to Tarot course you were given a birds-eye view of the territory. In this course you will be provided with a map, or plan. Then you must enter the mine of Tarot yourself and dig out your peculiar treasure.

You will begin by mastering the elements of the esoteric language of symbols in which the mysteries of Tarot have been preserved. Every lesson of this course will enable you to make definite progress in this part of the work.

Pay particular attention to every detail of procedure. Follow the instruction just as it is given. Whatever you are told to do, you can carry out with clear conscience, and in the certain conviction that it will be for your good.

As the results of your practice begin to make themselves manifest, you will be agreeably surprised by the changes effected in your personality. You will find yourself better able to concentrate. Your perceptions will be keener. You will deepen and broaden your comprehension of yourself and of the meaning of your various experiences.

Mere perusal of the lessons as they come to you will be almost useless. You might better save your time and money. Determine to devote a certain period to this work every day. Then you may expect the best results. "Out of nothing, nothing cometh." In simple justice to yourself, prepare to enter into the spirit of Tarot **practice.**

Do not delude yourself into believing you lack time for this work. It is absurd to say you have no time for what is, after all, the most important thing in your life. Your own spiritual growth is more worthy of consideration than anything else. You probably prove this every day of your life by seeking continually for greater enlightenment. You read books. You talk to people. You attend lectures and meetings. Yet fifteen minutes devoted to Tarot study every day can promote your growth more than hours of other activities. The one part of your day you cannot possibly afford to miss is your Tarot period.

Your first practical exercise will be to commit to memory the eleven statements of the The Pattern On The Trestleboard. This was printed on the Tarot tableau you received with Introduction to Tarot. These eleven statements are the words of a great leader of the Inner School. They are based on an ancient esoteric text.

Commit them to memory by first reading the entire Pattern several times from beginning to end. Do not try to learn it a little at a time. See if you succeed in committing the **whole**. Then fix it by writing out the Pattern. Use pen and ink or a fountain-pen, not a pencil. You might find this easier in the long run than any attempt to memorize the text bit by bit. Use this method of memorization in this first practice. (If you find it too difficult to memorize the whole, take it bit by bit.) Then you will have made a correct beginning in learning how to organize your mental activities.

This, remember, is a pattern, not a boastful declaration of personal attainment. The truth it utters is about the SELF, the cosmic Life-power behind and above all personal manifestations. It is said to be "on the trestleboard" because in the old terminology of the building crafts a trestleboard is a sort of table on which are laid plans for the guidance of the workmen.

Say the Pattern every morning on rising and every night before going to sleep. Be sure you do this whether you like it or not. Guard against automatic, parrot-like repetitions. **Think** the meaning of every sentence. Make this same effort every time you recite the words. It will aid you to discover the deeper meanings .

The next lesson will help you gain more insight into the truths behind these eleven sentences. The key is to be found in the numbering of the statements. Thus next week's lesson will really extend your study of the Pattern. As a preparation, get a notebook as soon as you finish reading this lesson, if you have not already done so.

Then think over what you have read and jot down any ideas which come into your mind. As you proceed with your daily study, continue to use the notebook. Make the entries short, but **make** them and **date** them.

This notebook is important. It is your occult diary. Every scientific researcher keeps records. You must do the same. This book will be of great value in your later work. To slight it will be to defeat one main purpose of this instruction.

Use it at every regular study period. Make an entry then even if you must record a failure to work at the time scheduled. You will need this diary in order to make reports from time to time, and you will find as time goes on that its contents have other uses. Keep it in a secure place and do not show it to anyone.

With the third of these lessons you will begin coloring your Keys in accordance with instructions which are also given in the HIGHLIGHTS OF TAROT booklet.

When you color your own Keys they take on something of your own personality. They become inseparably linked with you. The work demands attention, and this will impress the details of every picture on your memory and build Tarot into your very brain cells.

Making the Tarot Keys part of your flesh and blood must be your aim. It is what makes possible all the subtler and more potent utilizations of this alphabet of Ageless Wisdom.

Remember, you are not aiming primarily at making your Keys works of art. Do them as well as you can. Whatever skill you may develop in using paints and brushes will prove to be of use to you when you unfold into a truly proficient practical occultist.

Tarot on the table, or in your bookcase, is just a set of pictures printed on pasteboard. Tarot built into your brain is a living instrument through which you can make contact with sources of knowledge and power greater than you realize now. Coloring your own Keys builds this inside Tarot quicker and better than anything else.

This week, spend your study periods as follows:

1. Memorize the Pattern. When you have it by heart, always begin a study period by reciting it.
2. Read this lesson through, slowly, and, if possible, read it aloud.
3. Use the rest of the time to look over your Tarot Keys. You cannot be too familiar with them. If any Key seems particularly attractive to you, make a note of it in your diary, along with the reason, if you have one. If you have an aversion for any particular Key, note that also, and what you suppose to be the reason. If a Key suggests an idea to you, however vague, record it.

I am the beginning of all beginnings,
Checked by neither time nor space,
Held by no bonds of name or form.
Present everywhere,
Centering the full perfection
Of mine exhaustless power,
I am thy Lord, O Israel,
And Lord of countless hosts.

Seek me in the Holy of Holies,
In the heart of the true Temple,
On the Holy Mountain.
Behold, I am with thee always,
And I never sleep.

From THE BOOK OF TOKENS
by Dr. Paul Foster Case

0 THE FOOL א

1 THE MAGICIAN ב

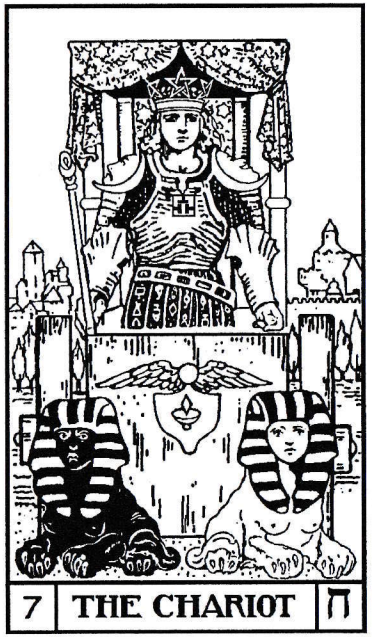
ב
ו
2 HIGH PRIESTESS ג

3 THE EMPRESS ד

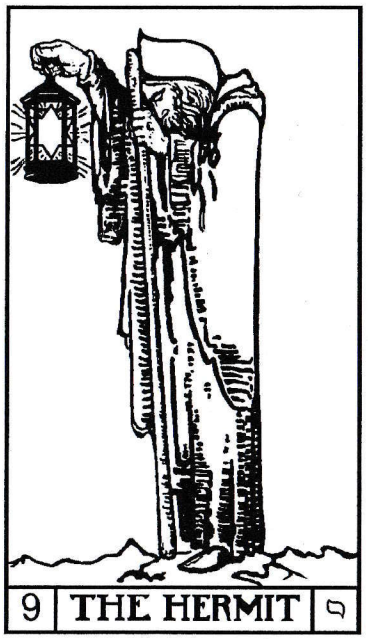
4 THE EMPEROR ה

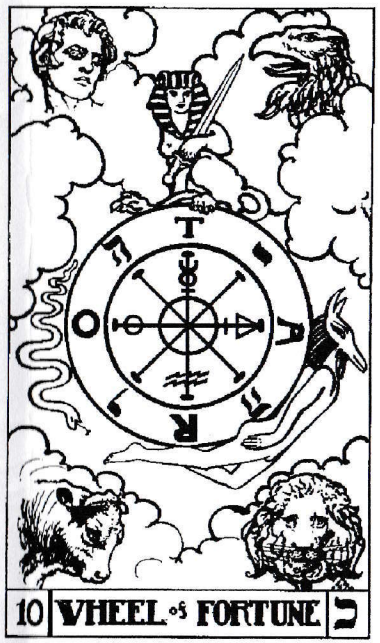
5 HIEROPHANT ו

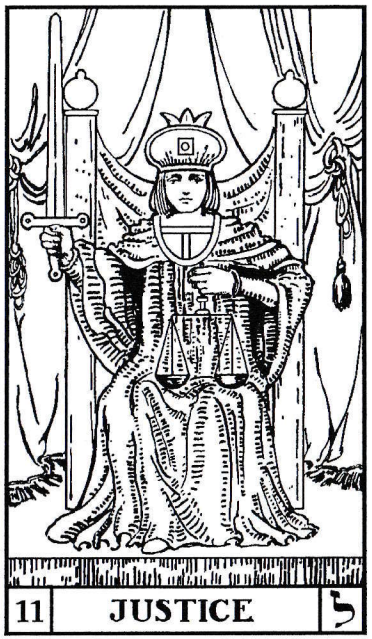
6 THE LOVERS ז

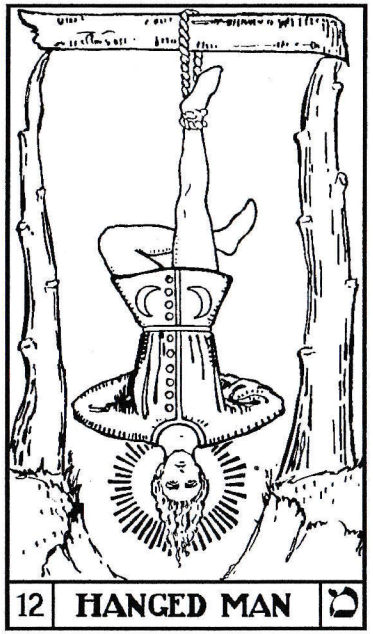

7 THE CHARIOT ח

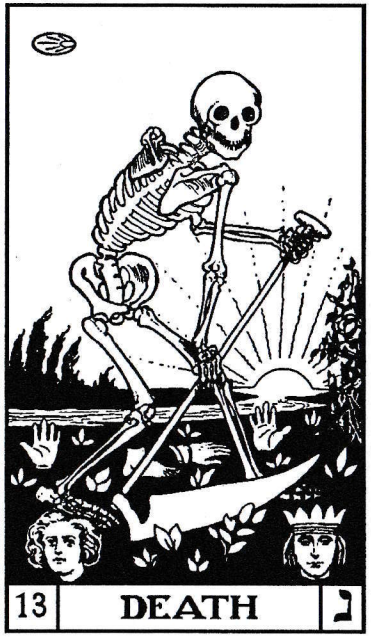
8 STRENGTH ט


9 THE HERMIT י


10 WHEEL of FORTUNE כ


11 JUSTICE ל


12 HANGED MAN מ


13 DEATH נ

14 TEMPERANCE ס

15 THE DEVIL ע

16
THE TOWER
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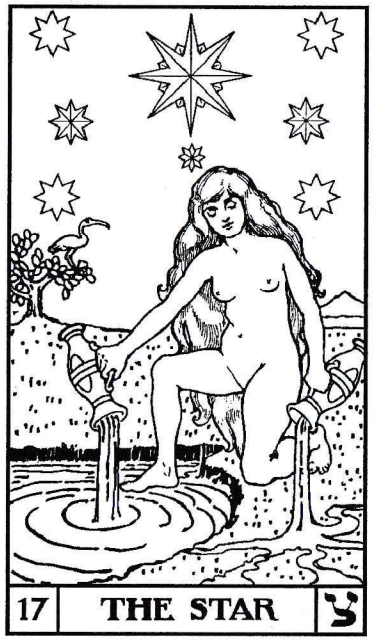
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THE STAR
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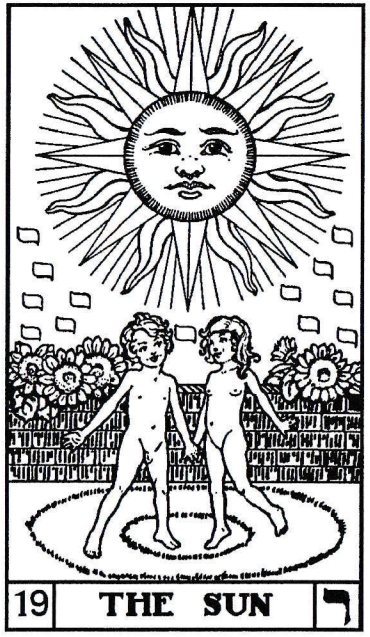
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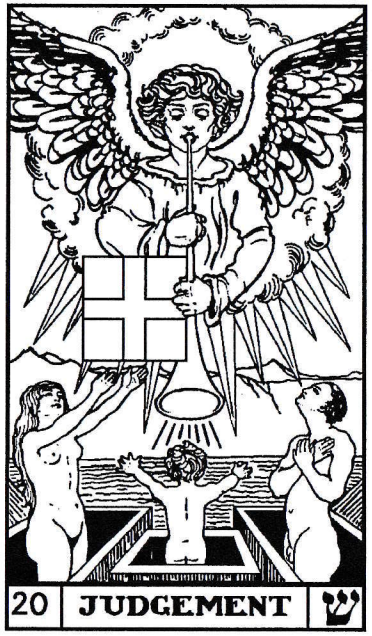
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21
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